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From: Retirement & Financial Planning Report
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Thursday, June 2, 2016

In case you missed it. Today's most widely read article...

Background Checks to Include Examining Social Media

Checking of publicly available postings on social media will become a standard part of background checks on federal employees for new or renewed security clearances, under an Obama administration policy decision. More details at <http://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/background-checks-include-examining-social-media/>

Buyouts, Raise, Other Issues on Agenda Ahead

After this week's break, Congress will be in session for five of the next six weeks before recessing until September, a summer break lengthened this year due to the political conventions. In the working time just ahead Congress likely will address several key issues for federal employees, although final decisions could be left until September or later—after working in September, Congress will recess again until after the elections. More at <http://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/buyouts-raise-issues-agenda-ahead/>

Study Underscores Value of Long-Time Investing

An Employee Benefits Research Institute study shows how participating in a defined contribution type savings program such as the TSP over a long period increases a person's chances of financial security in retirement.

The study said that for workers who participate in such plans for 30 years, the growth of such savings plus Social Security alone would allow more than 80 percent to replace at least 60 percent of their pre-retirement income, taking inflation into account. About 75 percent would be able to replace 70 percent of that income and about 67 percent would be able to reach an 80 percent replacement rate.

The percentages rise by several points in each category for savings programs that feature an automatic enrollment with an automatic employer contribution of at least 1 percent of salary—features that the TSP has for FERS employees—the report added.

The presence of a defined benefit accrual at age 65 increases the probability of not running short of money in retirement by about 12 percentage points; it is particularly valuable for the lowest-income

workers but also has a strong impact on others, it said.

Understanding Federal Reemployment

The effect on an annuity if you return to work for the government after retiring depends on how you retired. In certain circumstances, your annuity will continue; in others it will stop. <http://www.fedweek.com/retirement-financial-planning/understanding-federal-reemployment/>

The ABCs of Picking a Financial Planner

When you're looking for an expert to help you with money matters, choosing among prospective advisors can be a challenge. Most advisors will have some sort of letters after their name: there are nearly 100 designations open to professionals in the financial industry.

Some credentials are more important than others. These, for example, show that the recipient took a demanding course of study, passed a challenging exam, agrees to observe a code of ethics, and has met ongoing requirements for continuing education:

- * Certified public accountant. The CPA might be the most recognized financial designation. Many CPAs are familiar with the tax code but that's not always the case. You can ask about specific expertise in tax planning.
- * Personal financial specialist. Some CPAs also get a PFS designation, which indicates a broad range of expertise.
- * Certified financial planner. A CFP probably has some knowledge of investments but this credential shows a competency in comprehensive financial planning, from budgeting and college funding to insurance and retirement planning.
- * Chartered life underwriter. Someone with a CLU has extensive training in life insurance and probably can provide advice on sophisticated estate planning.
- * Chartered financial consultant. The same organization that awards the CLU also bestows the ChFC. The latter designation shows that the bearer can provide comprehensive planning but it's fair to expect an emphasis on life, health, disability, and long-term care insurance.
- * Chartered financial analyst. Holders of a CFA have completed a multi-year course of study and passed a rigorous exam. Many financial planning firms will have CFAs on staff to help select promising investments.

The above designations are well-established and well-regarded but they're certainly not the only ones available. Some financial advisors will show you a business card with different designations; some advisors will acquire, say, a CFP and then add a specialized designation such as Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF) or Certified Divorce Financial Analyst (CDFA).

How can you tell if an advisor or prospective advisor holds worthwhile designations? Go online and search for the designation, then go to the Web site of the responsible organization. You can read about the curriculum required to get the credential and how much continuing education is required, in order to keep it.

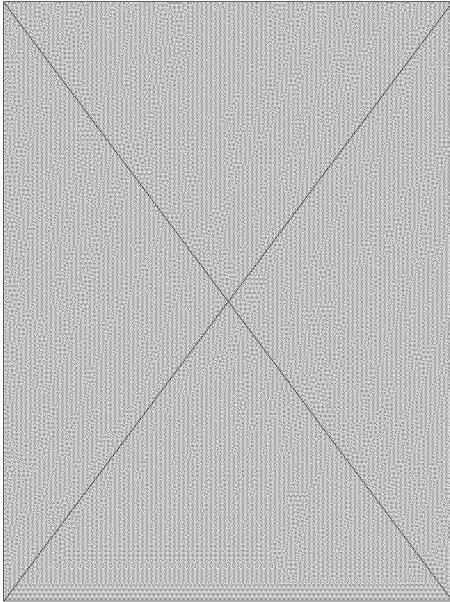
Expert's View: The Alternative Form of Annuity

At one time newly retiring federal employees could elect to have their retirement contributions paid to them in a lump sum and, in exchange, have their annuity actuarially reduced based on their age, writes benefits expert Reg Jones. Now that applies only in very limited circumstances, he writes. You'll find his column at <http://www.fedweek.com/news/reg-jones-experts-view/>

FEDweek's Thrift Savings Plan Investor's Handbook All New Fourth Edition has Just been Published!

The Thrift Savings Plan Investor's Handbook (All New Fourth Edition) has been completely revised and expanded including and will show you how to project the growth of your TSP balance for your retirement.

Featuring TSP's New Policies on Investment Limits and Withdrawal Options



We are Now Accepting Bulk Orders for this All-New Fourth Edition TSP Investor's Handbook for Federal Employees, Agencies and Libraries at Discounted Pricing.

Dear FEDweek Subscriber:

I wanted to let you know that our NEW Edition of The Thrift Savings Plan Investor's Handbook has been published! It has been completely updated and expanded for giving you the very latest sound advice and strategies on how to build your TSP account while minimizing your risks.

If you have money invested in your TSP account, then you should have this all-new TSP Investor's handbook.

Please pass this information on to your colleagues if you have already sent for your own copy. Below you will find more information about this all-new TSP handbook.

We'll continue to keep you posted on the latest critical information that affects you.

Sincerely,

Don Mace, Publisher
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You already know the basics of your TSP plan; now it's time to kick things into high gear. We developed the TSP Investor's Handbook especially to help you squeeze the most out of your investments and other benefits of the popular TSP program. This "all-new" handbook places the TSP among your other assets,

explains the real value of its best features.

Take a look at just some of what's new in this New Fourth Edition of *The Thrift Savings Plan Investor's Handbook for Federal Employees*:

- TSP's new policies on investment limits, interfund transfers, withdrawal options and transfers from other retirement savings programs
- A detailed perspective on what the "new" TSP is all about-and what it means to you.
- The relationship between the TSP and IRAs-what types of accounts can be involved in transfers and under what circumstances.
- Special rules for employees who are also Reservists or National Guard members-when they can establish a second, "military" TSP account, how much they can invest in it, how the two accounts work in relation to each other, and considerations for combining accounts.
- Newly Revised tables on rates of return and an analysis-and how they can guide your TSP investment and withdrawal strategies.
- Completely updated guide to resources, forms and services available in the TSP program.
- And much more!

Here's a look what you'll find in this all-new handbook:

What the TSP's Design Means to You: Payroll Withholding, Rates and Contributions, Tax Treatments, Roth Balances, Investment Choices, Loan Programs, In-Service Withdrawals and more...

The TSP's Place in Your Overall Assets: TSP Tax Advantage, Administrative Expenses, TSP's Role in Your Retirement Savings, TSP's and IRAs, Balancing Risks and more...

Time and Timing Considerations for Continuing TSP Investing: Account Growth, Maximizing Investments, Risk and Return, The L Fund, Your Time Frame and more...

Investment Questions and Answers: Investment Rules, The G Fund, The C Fund, The F Fund, The S Fund, The I Fund, The L Fund, Tracking Returns and Interfund Transfers and more...

Looking Ahead to a TSP Withdrawal: Growth of Current Account Balance and Future Investments, Translating Your TSP Account into Potential Income.

A Framework for Your Withdrawal Decision: Projecting Your Basic Federal Retirement Benefits and Income from Other Sources, How Long Your Might be Retired, Assessing Your Income Goals and Needs, Timing Your TSP Withdrawal and Finding the Best Deal.

Lump Sum Withdrawals and Annuities: The Advantages and Disadvantages as well as Tax Implications.

Survivor Benefit Considerations: TSP Death Benefits, Civil Service Retirement Survivor Benefits, Social Security Survivor Benefits and Your Survivor Annuity Choice.

TSP Contacts and Forms: TSP Service Office, The ThriftLine, The TSP Website and Forms.

To order online or see below for other ways to order. *The Thrift Savings Plan Investor's Handbook for Federal Employees* is only \$12.95

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